

stood before us brimful of water just upon the simmer ; while up into the air above our heads rose a great column of vapour, looking as if it was going to turn into the Fisherman's Genie. The ground about the brim was composed of layers of incrustated silica, like the outside of an oyster, sloping gently down on all sides from the edge of the basin. . . .

We kept watch, continues Lord Dufferin, for three days over the geyser in expectation of the eruption. On the morning of the fourth day a cry from the guides made us start to our feet, and with one common impulse rush towards the basin. The usual subterranean thunders had already commenced. A violent agitation was disturbing the centre of the pool. Suddenly a dome of water lifted itself up to the height of eight or ten feet, then burst and fell ; immediately after which a shining liquid column, or rather a sheaf of columns, wreathed in robes of vapour, sprung into the air, and in a succession of jerking leaps, each higher than the last, flung their silver crests against the sky. For a few minutes the fountain held its own, then all at once appeared to lose its ascending energy. The unstable waters faltered—drooped—fell, “like a broken purpose,” back upon themselves, and were immediately sucked down into the recesses of their pipe.

The spectacle was certainly magnificent ; but no description can give any idea of its most striking features. The enormous wealth of water, its vitality, its hidden power—the illimitable breadth of sunlit vapour, rolling out in exhaustless profusion—all combined to make one feel the stupendous energy of Nature's slightest movements.

And yet, says Lord Dufferin in conclusion, I do not believe the exhibition was so fine as some that have been seen. From the first burst upwards to the moment the last jet retreated into the pipe was no more than a space of seven or eight minutes, and at no moment did the crown of the column reach higher than sixty or seventy feet above the surface of the basin. Now, early travellers talk of three hundred feet, which must, of course, be fabulous ; but many trustworthy persons have judged the eruptions at two hundred feet, while well-authenticated accounts—when the elevation of the jet has been actually measured—make it to have attained a height of upwards of a hundred feet.

We now resume our survey of the principal volcanoes and volcanic districts of the globe, passing from northern Europe to tropical Africa.

AFRICAN VOLCANOES.

The archipelago of islands known by the separate names of the Azores, the Canary Islands, and the Cape Verd Islands, lying off the west coast of Africa, are all of volcanic origin.

In the AZORES the principal and the only active volcano is *El*